DOE/EIA-0218(92-01)

Weekly Coal Production

Energy Information Administration

Production for Week Ended:
December 28, 1991

Preface

The *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* report provides weekly estimates of U.S. coal production by State. Supplementary data are usually published monthly in two supplements: the Coal Exports and Imports Supplement and the Domestic Market Supplement. The Coal Exports and Imports Supplement contains detailed monthly data on U.S. coal and coke exports and imports. The Domestic Market Supplement contains detailed monthly electric utility coal statistics, by Census Division and State, for generation, consumption, stocks, receipts, sulfur content, prices, and the origin and destination of coal shipments. This supplement also contains summary-level, monthly data for all coal-consuming sectors on a quarterly basis.

Preliminary coal production data are published quarterly, based on production data collected using Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report." Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent for 1988,1 percent to 2 percent for 1989, and 0.3 percent to 3 percent for 1990.

Final coal production data are published annually, based on the EIA-7A coal production survey. Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent for 1988, 0.09 percent to 0.14 percent for 1989, and 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent for 1990. Usually the EIA-7A coal production data are higher than the EIA-6 coal production data, due to the differences in the threshold reporting requirements.

This publication is prepared by the Survey Management Division; Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels; Energy Information Administration (EIA) to fulfill its data collection and dissemination responsibilities as specified in the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275) as amended. *Weekly Coal Production* is intended for use by industry, press, State and local governments, and consumers. Other publications that may be of interest are the quarterly *Coal Distribution*, the *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Coal Production 1990*, and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

This publication was prepared by Wayne M. Watson under the direction of Mary K. Paull, Team Leader, Coal Data Systems, and Noel C. Balthasar, Chief, Coal and Uranium Data Systems Branch. *Questions on energy statistics should be directed to the National Energy Information Center (NEIC) at 202/586-8800.*

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Summary

U.S. coal production in the week ended December 28, 1991, as estimated by the Energy Information Administration, totaled 13 million short tons, 36 percent less than in the previous week, but 18 percent higher than in the comparable week in 1990. Production east of the Mississippi River totaled 6 million short tons, and production west of the Mississippi River totaled 7 million short tons. Production was lower than in the previous week in every State, due to the Christmas Day holiday. The large decrease in production east of the Mississippi River reflects the decision by some mine operators to exercise the four-day floating holiday option, contained in the United Mine Workers of America contract, during Christmas week.

Figure 1. Coal Production

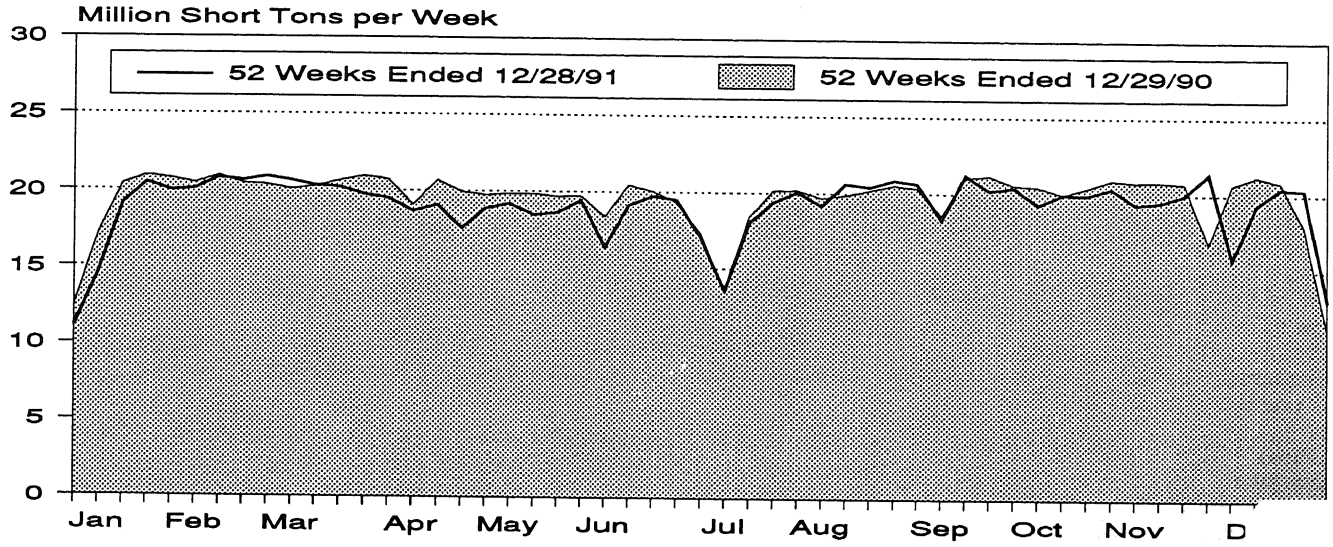

Table 1. Coal Production

Production and Carloadings	Week Ended 12/28/91	Week Ended 12/21/91	Week Ended 12/29/90	Year-to-Date 12/28/91	Year-to-Date 12/29/90	Change
Production (Thousand Short Tons)						
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite	13,093	20,319	11,087	998,621	1,022,726	-2.4
Pennsylvania Anthracite	26	41	23	2,692	3,499	-23.1
U.S. Total	13,120	20,360	11,110	1,001,312	1,026,225	-2.4
Railroad Cars Loaded	85,941	133,964	72,144	6,494,626	6,684,674	

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: 1991 data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

Table 2. Coal Production by State
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	Week Ended 12/28/91	12/21/91	12/29/90
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite			
East of the Mississippi	**6,306**	**11,931**	**5,622**
Alabama	329	603	287
Illinois	898	1,287	650
Indiana	408	578	238
Kentucky	1,536	3,286	1,527
Kentucky, Eastern	1,134	2,444	1,195
Kentucky, Western	402	841	332
Maryland	33	78	30
Ohio	315	516	335
Pennsylvania Bituminous	533	963	466
Tennessee	54	100	57
Virginia	502	918	477
West Virginia	1,697	3,604	1,555
West of the Mississippi	**6,788**	**8,388**	**5,465**
Alaska	25	39	26
Arizona	151	234	143
Arkansas	*	1	1
Colorado	169	341	191
Iowa	4	7	4
Kansas	7	10	7
Louisiana	25	66	8
Missouri	32	50	26
Montana	715	781	637
New Mexico	401	435	142
North Dakota	541	591	433
Oklahoma	43	54	21
Texas	727	1,126	593
Utah	230	428	218
Washington	62	95	52
Wyoming	3,655	4,130	2,962
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite Total	**13,093**	**20,319**	**11,087**
Pennsylvania Anthracite	**26**	**41**	**23**
U.S. Total	**13,120**	**20,360**	**11,110**

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.
*Less than 0.5 thousand short tons.
Notes: 1991 data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.
Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

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Methodology

Weekly Data

Estimates of national weekly coal production are based on weekly carload data collected by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) from its members (Class I Railroads) and certain other railroads. EIA calculates the average number of tons per carload for each railroad's coal car fleet from information obtained from the most recent Quarterly Freight Commodity Statistics filed by Class I Railroads with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and from data made available by individual railroads. The average number of tons per carload is then multiplied by the number of cars loaded to obtain an estimate of weekly production shipped by AAR railroads.

Next, the weekly coal production estimate for a specific week is obtained by dividing the AAR rail tonnage for the week by a factor representing the proportion of quarterly AAR rail shipments to total quarterly coal production. Because this is done on a weekly basis, and prior to completion of current quarterly statistics, the factor is derived using ICC data on tons per carload and total carloadings and from EIA data on total production for the same quarter of the previous year. Figures for the same quarter of the year are used in order to reflect seasonal variation. In some cases, the ratio of rail tonnage to total production is adjusted to take additional, more current information into consideration, such as rail or coal strikes.

Once the U.S. weekly coal production estimate is determined, this total is split into two subtotals - the portion representing States, with little or no rail coal shipments, and the portion representing the remaining States, where a significant percentage of production is shipped by rail. The States with little or no railroad coal shipments are Alaska, Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, and Washington. With the exception of California and Louisiana, the weekly production data for each "nonrail" State are developed by multiplying the estimate of U.S. weekly coal production by the ratio of projected production, for each State to U.S. total projected production, for the current quarter. The methodology used to project State coal production is given in the EIA publication *Model Documentation of the Short-Term Coal Analysis System* (DOE/EIA-0394). The EIA contacts the sole producer in Louisiana and California to obtain weekly production data.

Estimates for the remaining States are in aggregate equal to the U.S. weekly coal production minus the estimated production from the nonrail States.

Estimates for "rail States" are based on the AAR carload data compiled by State of origin, including separate estimates for the anthracite and bituminous coal regions in Pennsylvania, eastern and western Kentucky and northern and southern West Virginia.

Each railroad is contacted at least annually for information concerning the distribution (by state of origin) of its railroad carloadings of coal. These distribution percentages are multiplied by the railroad's weekly loadings and ICC derived tonnage per carload figures, to derive the weekly tonnages loaded by State and by railroad. The tonnages loaded by the various railroads are then summed by each State to estimate total production shipped by AAR rail for that State. These tonnages are divided by the most recent ratio of annual AAR rail tonnage to total annual production for each State. The resulting weekly coal production estimates for the rail States are then adjusted to ensure that each State's production figure contributes proportionately to the weekly coal production estimate previously derived in aggregate for the rail States.

Monthly Data

Preliminary estimates of monthly coal production by State are obtained by summing weekly coal production estimates published in the *Weekly Coal Production* report. If a week extends into a new month, the production is allocated by day, and the days are added to the month in which they occur. For weeks without holidays, the allocation is Monday through Friday, 18.4 percent each day; Saturday, 8 percent; and Sunday, 0 percent. For weeks with a holiday occurring on a day other than Sunday, the allocation is Sunday and the holiday, 0 percent; and any other day, 20 percent.

Preliminary weekly and monthly production estimates are revised quarterly when quarterly production data, become available. Preliminary weekly and monthly estimates are proportionately adjusted to conform to the quarterly production figure.

Quarterly Data

Estimates of quarterly coal production are based on data collected quarterly on Form EIA-6, with certain adjustments. The national estimate of quarterly coal production is set equal to the quarterly U.S. coal production total as reported on the Form EIA-6. Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of

the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent for 1988, 1 percent to 2 percent for 1989, and 0.3 percent to 3 percent for 1990.

The quarterly production data, although published throughout the year, are considered preliminary until EIA annual production data are finalized in September of the following year. At that time quarterly production data are revised (proportionately adjusted) to conform to the final annual production figures.

Finalizing Annual Production

Preliminary total annual U.S. coal production, as reported in the *Weekly Coal Production* report in the first week in January of the following year, is the sum of revised monthly/quarterly estimates of production for the first 9 months (first three quarters) and a preliminary estimate of fourth quarter production derived from weekly estimates.

When production data for the fourth quarter of the year become available from Form EIA-6 in March of the following year, the preliminary fourth-quarter U.S. total production figure and corresponding State-level figures may or may not be revised, depending on the size of the difference between the estimates and fourth-quarter data. As a general practice, EIA does not revise the initial annual production estimates (determined initially in January of the following year). Weekly, monthly, and quarterly State and national production data are adjusted to conform to finalized annual production figures derived from Form EIA-7A, in September of the following year.

Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent for 1988, 0.09 percent to 0.14 percent for 1989, and 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent for 1990. Usually the EIA-7A coal production data are higher than the EIA-6 coal production data, due to differences in the threshold reporting requirements.